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COMMERCIAL NEWS

Vertical parking—Swiss solution to parking problem

Great interest is being shown in the new system of parking cars, known as the "WULPA", which has been patented throughout the world and perfected by a firm of engineers in Olten. This system of parking is of the vertical type, built in accordance with a system which is similar to that of the so-called "patenôtre" elevator system, which consists of an endless chain which carries constantly moving cages. In this particular case, however, the cages move only when so desired, i.e., when a car is entering or leaving the parking place. Except when all the places are occupied, the cage which is level with the ground is always free. The motorist who wishes to park his car drives it into the cage and sees to it that the wheels are fixed in the grooves which hold them, thus making it unnecessary to put on the brakes. Owing to a system of photo-electrical cells, the elevator cannot be started so long as anyone remains in the cage. However, as soon as the motorist has parked his car and closed the door of the cage, the latter mounts and gives place to a new empty cage. When the motorist wishes to have his car again, he presses a button which makes the cage come down to the ground and he then proceeds to open it with an individual key, after having paid the fee for parking. All these operations can take place through the intermediary of an attendant, or in an entirely automatic manner, by means of photo-electrical cells and relays. It has been calculated that this new parking system makes it possible to park ten times as many cars as would be possible on the surface occupied by this modern garage. The smallest unit makes it possible to garage 20 cars on a surface of 18.8 feet by 22 feet. This Swiss invention, of which several specimens are already functioning in Germany and in Italy, can be set up quite easily in the yards of buildings possessing modest dimensions.

A Record of over 28 Million Hotel Nights in 1960

According to a preliminary report from the Federal Bureau of Statistics, a total of 28,147,250 overnight stays was recorded in Switzerland's hotels, pensions, Alpine sanatoria and health resorts last year, which is 4.3 per cent more than in 1959 and the highest figures ever reached in Swiss tourism. Visitors from abroad accounted for 15,963,400 hotel nights (up 6.9%), while the record for Swiss guests was 12,183,850 (up 1.1%). The Germans again topped the list of foreign holidaymakers, scoring 4,164,825 nights, though their increase was a mere 2.3%. Visitors from the United Kingdom went on record with 2.91 million (up 9%), followed by the French with 2.65 million (up 18.6%), the Americans with 1.49 million (up 14%), the Italians with 987,000 (up 7%), the Austrians with 268,000 (up 4.3%), the Swedes with 182,000 (up 4.8%), the Spaniards with 163,000 (up 15%), and the Danes with 129,000 (up 8.6%) overnight stays. Slight decreases occurred in the number of tourists from the Benelux countries, namely Belgium (809,000 nights, down 6.6%), the Netherlands (828,000, down 1.7%), and Luxemburg (101,000, down 12.5%). Almost all overseas areas participated in the increase. Hotel nights of visitors

from Europe went up 6% whereas the gain was 12.5% for travellers from other continents.

Geneva—New York DC-8 Record

Swissair's Douglas DC-8 HB-IDB "Jungfrau" set up a new record on 22nd March by flying Geneva—New York non-stop in 7 hours 30 minutes.

The same aircraft also set up the previous record Geneva—New York of 8 hours 15 minutes, which was achieved in December 1960.

Radiant Heating for Cold Reduction Mill

For the 2,000-feet-long Cold Reduction Mill at Gartcosh, Sulzer radiant strip heating will be used. Supplied by high pressure hot water from a boiler plant which also provides steam for process work, the radiant strip heaters are mounted 55 feet high to clear cranes and afford a clear production floor space. This type of heating gives comfort level with economy of running for a mill of this size.

The building has a volume of 30,000,000 cubic feet, and the heating capacity of the radiant strip is some 16,000,000 B.T.U.'s to provide a normal temperature of 55°F. The boilers installed will be Marshal & Anderson "Economic" type, having an output of 75,000 pounds per hour, with a normal working pressure of 100 pounds per square inch. One of the three boilers is intended to serve the heating load via a Cascade heater. The high-pressure hot-water circulating pumps will also be of Sulzer manufacture.

Switzerland at the International Labour Exhibition

Together with twenty-one other nations and international organisations, Switzerland will participate officially in the International Exhibition of Labour, which will be held in Turin, from 1st May to 31st October 1961. This exhibition is to take place within the framework of the celebrations arranged to commemorate the centenary of the Unity and Independence of Italy. The Swiss Office for Development of Trade has been charged with the task of arranging the Swiss participation, in collaboration with the Division for Commerce of the Federal Department of Public Economy, the Federal Office for Industry, Arts and Crafts and Labour, and various other institutions. The organisers of the Swiss section have chosen "The Natural Sphere of Activity of the Worker" for their theme. The Swiss Section will comprise four principal groups, the first of which will show how important it is, for the well-being of the worker and for his output, that the plant should be situated in pleasant natural surroundings. The second group will show, by means of small models and photographs, some examples of construction sites, laid out in accordance with modern conceptions. The third group will deal with the material and moral components of the immediate vital sphere of action of the worker. Finally, in the fourth group, it will be shown that the free worker, whose activities take place under favourable conditions, is an active member of the national community, that he strives to contribute to the well-being of all and to destroy the narrow frame of his immediate interests.